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### **3 Local Hospitals Earn Gold Honors for Organ Donor Registration Efforts**

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (July 17, 2015) – All three local Mercy Health hospitals – St. Elizabeth Youngstown, St. Joseph Warren and St. Elizabeth Boardman – have earned gold awards for a three-year campaign to increase the number of registered eye, organ and tissue donors.

The campaign, Phase IV of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration's Hospital Champions Campaign, began in June 2011 as a special effort of the Workplace Partnership for Life. Through the campaign, organ, eye and tissue donation organizations worked with hospitals to create engaging donation registration drives, social media campaigns, and other events to raise awareness and register donors within the hospitals' facilities and local communities.

Some 1,660 hospitals and transplant centers took part, achieving a 30 percent increase in enrollment and a 56 percent increase in recognition. Of the hospitals and transplant centers taking part, 736 earned gold, silver or bronze recognition this year.

St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital, St. Joseph Warren Hospital and St. Elizabeth Boardman Hospital are among only 24 hospitals in Ohio to earn the gold award. These three hospitals have garnered recognition for increasing the number of registered eye, organ and tissue donors every year since this campaign began. Last year, St. E's earned a platinum award, St. Joe's and St. E's Boardman earned gold. The year before, St. E's earned gold, St. Joe's and St. E's Boardman earned silver.

Other Mercy Hospitals earning gold recognition this year are Mercy Hospital of Tiffin, Mercy Hospital of Williard and Mercy St. Vincent's Medical Center in Toledo.

#### **About Mercy Health Youngstown**

Mercy Health Youngstown, formerly Humility of Mary Health Partners, is an integrated health system in the Mahoning Valley, which encompasses the Youngstown/Warren metropolitan area – Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties in Ohio. It is part of Mercy Health, which is headquartered in Cincinnati and is the largest health system in Ohio and one of the largest Catholic health systems in the United States. Mercy Health Youngstown provides a full spectrum of health care services – acute inpatient and trauma, outpatient and ambulatory, rehabilitation, behavioral, emergency and urgent care, primary care physicians in patient-centered medical homes, specialist physician care, home health, home medical equipment, long-term care and hospice care, as well as Mercy Health Foundation Mahoning Valley. Learn more at [www.mercy.com/Youngstown](http://www.mercy.com/Youngstown).

## **About Mercy Health**

Mercy Health (formerly Catholic Health Partners) is the largest health system in Ohio and one of the largest health systems in the United States, employing more than 32,000 workers in Ohio and Kentucky. With \$6 billion in assets, Mercy Health operates about 450 health facilities, including 23 hospitals, eight senior living communities, five hospice programs and seven home health agencies. Truven Health Analytics (formerly Thomson Reuters) consistently rates Mercy Health among the nation's top health systems for clinical quality and efficiency. In keeping with its mission, Mercy Health provides about \$1 million per day in community benefit services. Mercy Health's bonds are rated AA- by Standard & Poor's and Fitch, and A1 by Moody's. Mercy Health also partners with HealthSpan which provides health maintenance organization and insurance coverage. Mercy Health is a founding member of Health Innovations Ohio, which focuses on providing health services that result in higher quality, better health and greater value. For more information, visit [www.mercy.com](http://www.mercy.com) or connect with Mercy Health on Facebook, LinkedIn, Google+, Pinterest and Twitter (@LivingMercyHlth).

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